



Dear Parents/Carers,

It's been great to hear the sound of children around the school once more – we sure have missed them! Pupils have settled in really well and the staff have been very complimentary of the way your children have handled the transition. Once again we would like to thank you for supporting your children with the online learning.

We would like to reassure parents that our school is continuing to follow the Covid-19 guidelines and the rules are here to protect the teachers and pupils. Please remember that Coronavirus restrictions remain in place. Find out what you can and cannot do by looking at the government website: <https://bit.ly/3dlAlgl>

Pupils are in full flow with their learning and their teachers are working really hard to identify and plug missing gaps in their learning. This means pupils will be supported in different ways to receive tailored interventions. Please speak to your child and find out what they are doing and if they are receiving any support. Also, look out for the weekly homework as this will always be linked to what your child is doing in class and support their needs.

We are really looking forward to the Summer Term and excited about all the fantastic projects the teachers have got lined up for pupils.

Please have a lovely break and Happy Easter. Ramadan Mubarak to all our Muslim families

Kind Regards

Mr Riaz (Associate Principal), Mrs Majid and Mr Ahmad (Assistant Headteachers).

Year 4 have been exploring Easter in Spain

"Students in Year 4 have been learning how Easter is celebrated in Spain with an Easter treasure hunt in the classroom and then decorating Easter baskets.

These are some lovely examples! *Felices Pascuas* - Happy Easter!



Staff Changes and Leavers

On 30th April, we will sadly say goodbye to several staff members across the school, many of whom have devoted years of their career to Starbank, making a huge difference to the lives of so many of our pupils. We want to express sincere gratitude for everything you have done for Starbank. You will all be missed dearly by all our children, staff and parents; we wish you the best of luck and all the success for the future.

Support Staff: Mrs Burns (HLTA), Mrs Kaur (HLTA), Mrs Smiley (TA), Mrs Azad (TA), Mrs Mewis (Learning Mentor), Mr Bell (PE Coach) and Mr Powell (Site Manager).

Teachers: Mrs Morell (Spanish Teacher)

FACE Team: Mrs Osman-Ghani, Mrs Francis, Mrs Isse

Teacher Changes:

4B: Mrs Cole will continue to teach 4B pupils on Thursday and Friday. Miss Fenemore will teach the class on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

1EF: Mrs Eyre will continue to teach 1EF pupils on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Mrs Clay will teach the class on Monday and Tuesday.

Administrative Staff movement:

We will also have a change in our Admin Team. Mrs Begum and Mrs Chohan have secured new roles and will be moving across to the Hob Moor Road site.

Our new team will include Mrs Yasin (Business Manager), Mrs Begom, Mrs Aftab and Miss Hussain, all long serving members of Starbank school.

If you have any questions, please feel free to speak to a member of the senior leadership team. Thank you for your continued support.



Reception visit Africa

It has been extremely lovely to have the children back into school, they have all been missed! This half term Reception have had lots of fun reading stories set in Africa as well as some traditional tales. They have been practising segmenting and writing super sentences, using a variety of sentence starters.

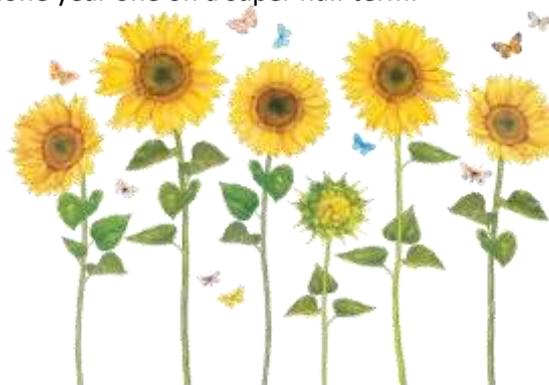
In Maths pupils have been learning to recognise, count and write numbers all the way up to 20! During topic sessions, pupils have been learning all about Spring. The children have really enjoyed planting some cress and making some season wheels. Please read with your child daily and practise their high frequency words.



Year One plant sunflowers

This half term, Year One have really bloomed, just like the spring plants in our Science topic. They have settled back into school routines and have worked hard to consolidate their learning. The children have learnt the features, and followed written instructions to plant their own sunflowers. Using this knowledge they have also created their own set of instructions.

Well done year one on a super half term.



Year Two hit the Radio!



2CJ and 2J have been extremely lucky this month to take part in the rocket radio features for Summer 1.

Both classes created scripts and rehearsed, before recording two features with Shan. The children took complete ownership and control of their features in the show. At Starbank Road Year 2 pupils decided to include various topics covered since September to broadcast a very interesting character quiz!

In the feature, you will hear some of the wonderful things our pupils have all been up to during Lockdown. Year 2 cannot wait for you to tune into their show which will be going live at the start of next term! Remember keep an eye out for any updates.



Year Three take on the Vikings

During online learning, Year Three began by taking a trip back in history - to a time when the Anglo-Saxons and Vikings lived! Pupils have had a brilliant time exploring what domestic life was like then and how it differs to our present-day life. They were able to learn about the Viking attacks and how they reigned supreme in power through their invasions of the Anglo-Saxon kingdoms.

Year 3 have now learnt how important it was for the Viking's to have strong ships and how they played an important role in their attacks.

Did you know King Alfred tried to bribe the Vikings to keep peace in Wessex?

Year 3 are looking forward to their next history topic but for now are very glad the Vikings finally kept their peace with King Alfred!



Year Four are Eco Warriors

Year 4 were very excited to return to school and have been working hard in all subjects - especially Music where they have been learning a sea shanty! A special well done to those children who have taken care of their instruments at home and practise every week.

In History, pupils have been learning all about the local area and in Science, they have looked at the similarities and differences between different animal groups, learning to use different classification systems.

Using a persuasive range of techniques, pupils have become eco-warriors in English; persuading others to adopt an endangered creature and to put an end to the destruction of deforestation.



Year Six get scientific with blood!

6K and 6R had a great, but gruesome, time on Science Day making their very own blood sample (don't worry- no Year 6s were hurt during the making of it!) Using red food dye as plasma, cereal as red blood cells, marshmallows as white blood cells and sprinkles as platelets, they were able to see why each component is vital. Lessons like this help to show pupils a side of Science that they may not normally experience, in the hope that in the future Starbank Scientists can help create the next life-saving vaccine.



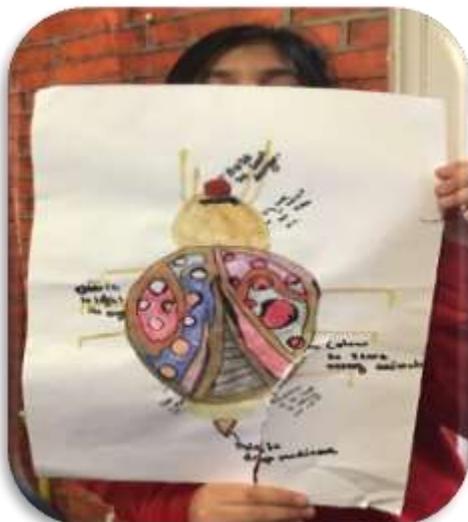
Year 6 have also been busy designing and creating decorations for Starbank Road's Reflection Garden. Pupils from both classes created hundreds of paper origami cranes, which will be used to create a peaceful and tranquil atmosphere. In many cultures, the crane is a symbol of love, happiness, and recovery: something we are all in need of more than ever.



Year Five are bug hunters

On Science day this term, Year 5 studied the bonkers, bizarre world of bug biodiversity. As part of their lessons, they explored how real invertebrates are perfectly adapted to their environment. After that, 5S and 5ES designed their own insects with fictional adaptations such as wifi-connected antennae, and gills which convert polluted air into fresh oxygen through respiration!

On National Day of Reflection, Year 5 shared their feelings, worries and concerns about life in lockdown. We talked about the tough times that many of us have been through and discussed how what we could contribute to the school's Reflection Garden to commemorate this year.



Dates for your Diary:

Key dates	Event
Thursday 1 st April	End of Spring 2 Half Term
Monday 19 th April	Start of Summer 1 Half Term
Friday 23 rd April	Shakespeare Day
Monday 3 rd May	Bank Holiday
Thursday 6 th May	Election day – Starbank Road site closed for pupils
Friday 28 th May	End of Summer 1 Half Term

World Book Day 2021

World Book Day was created by UNESCO on 23rd April 1995 as a worldwide celebration of books and reading. It is marked in over 100 countries around the globe.

World Book Day changes lives through a love of books and shared reading: reading for pleasure is the single biggest indicator of a child's future success. Its mission is to promote reading for pleasure, offering every child and young person the opportunity to have a book of their own.

This year, World Book Day fell during lockdown but we wanted to make sure that we still devoted a day to celebrating reading. Every year group planned some live fantastic and fun reading opportunities for the pupils to participate in from: class assemblies, book quizzes, interactive videos from established children's authors and illustrators, and offline fun reading activities.

We also arranged for the author 'Dan Freedman' to pre-record an assembly for our KS2 pupils. Pupils thought of questions that they would like to ask this famous author, which he then kindly answered. Many of our pupils were inspired by Dan and his achievements and successes, achievements and successes that he admits have stemmed from his love of reading.

Thanks to National Book Tokens and lots of lovely book publishers and booksellers, World Book Day, in partnership with schools all over the country, distribute over 15 million £1 World Book Day book tokens to children and young people every year on World Book Day. The £1 book tokens can then be swapped for one of the exclusive, new and completely FREE World Book Day books that are on sale in supermarkets as well as in book stores. On their return to school, every pupil also received their £1 book voucher so if you have not yet done so please go with your child to exchange their voucher for a brand new book.

Remember: Spending just 10 minutes a day reading and sharing stories with children can make a crucial difference to their future success and it is fun for all involved.



Mental Health and Well Being

LET'S TALK ABOUT IT

We continue to place great importance on our pupils' mental health. During lockdown we dedicated additional time to wellbeing and made sure this remained in place when pupils returned to school. Pupils were given tailored lessons depending on their lockdown experience. We can see an increasing confidence in pupils sharing what good mental health looks like and how to achieve this. Please encourage your child to continue using mindfulness and relaxation activities as one way to support them.

To continue to ensure pupils feel safe and happy at school. The school council are leading on an anti-bullying ambassadors project. With the support of a class teacher they will ensure in each year group, Year 1 to Year 6, there is a nominated anti-bullying ambassador.

We have put together a list of useful websites and contacts on the school website.

<https://www.starbankschool.co.uk/information/emotional-health-well-being/>

You will find:

- Pupil Mental Health and Wellbeing policy
- Who you can speak to
- Supporting your child during coronavirus
- Mindfulness and relaxation activities
- Support your own wellbeing
- Reporting domestic abuse
- Useful links

National Day of Reflection- Tuesday 23rd March

A National Day of Reflection was held on Tuesday 23 March to mark the anniversary of the UK's first Covid lockdown. Alongside the minute's silence pupils created a dedicated reflection area in the school. Year 5 decided to decorate stones with designs that symbolise hope for the future. We can't wait to see these in place in the new garden.





100% Attendance

Firstly, and most importantly, a HUGE well done and thank you to the **102** children who have 100% attendance for the academic year to date. The Department for Education tracks attendance carefully and our aim is to have an attendance figure in excess of the national average of 96%.

Persistent Absence

This academic year, our School attendance has dropped and we are struggling to meet our weekly attendance of **96%**. We have over a 100 pupils whose attendance this academic year is below 96% with a significant number of pupils whose attendance is **below 92%**. If your child has been identified as having poor attendance, they will have received an attendance letter and a call from a member of our Senior Leadership Team as their attendance is being closely monitored. **Absence due to Covid-related self-isolation will not affect your child's attendance figure. A copy of your child's attendance record is available, on request, from the school office.**

Classes who achieve a weekly attendance of 96% or more will be rewarded with an extra playtime at School. Help your class to achieve this target.

Holidays during Term time

Starbank School has adopted the Local Authority guidelines for ALL term time holidays. Please book your travels during school holidays. If you do take your child on holiday without authorisation, you may receive a penalty fine from the Birmingham City Council. We are in the process of issuing Penalty Notices. **DON'T LET IT BE YOU!** Please complete a 'leave of absence' request form from the school office if you intend to take your child out of school during term time and arrange a meeting with Mrs Majid.

Reporting an absence

If your child is too ill to attend school, please contact the school office before 9.00am with full details of your child's illness/symptoms. If we do not hear from you, we will ring you to find out why your child is not in school. If we are unable to make contact and you do not provide a reason for your child's absence, this absence will be recorded as unauthorised and a Home Visit will be arranged by school.

Reception Pupils:

Iqra	RM
Abdulah	RM
Danyaal	RM
Muhammad-Hasan	RM
Muhammad	RM
Marwa	RSN
Mikhail	RSN
Zidane	RSN

Year 1 Pupils:

Ayaan	1Y
Laiba	1Y
Majeed-Ul	1Y
Zakariya	1Y
Nahla	1Y
Yaseen	1Y
Maryam	1Y
Haashim	1Y
Mina	1EF
Maryam	1EF
Hasnain	1EF
Subhan	1EF
Dawrann	1EF
Mohammed	1EF
Ameera	1EF

Year 2 pupils

Sarah	2CJ
Aminah	2CJ
Daria	2CJ
Hanzalah	2CJ
Suraya	2CJ
Fatimah	2CJ
Afsa	2CJ
Fatimah	2J
Husna	2J
Tasnim	2J
Safaa	2J
Anouar	2J





100% Attendance

Year 3 Pupils:

Abeerah	3G
Imani	3G
Yusefin	3G
Aliza	3G
Hannah	3G
Musa	3G
Saira	3G
Mohammed	3G
Ammara	3S
Anas	3S
Aadam	3S
Abdi-Samad	3S
Pareesa	3S
Hajar	3S
Sirine	3S
Mujahid	3S
Inayah	3S
Ayyub	3S

Year 4 Pupils:

Safa	4B
Amelia	4B
Muhammad	4B
Amima	4B
Fahim	4B
Saham	4B
Muaz	4B
Sanzima	4B
Subhan	4B
Tanzeem	4B
Dimaad	4B
Husna	4B
Rahman	4N
Muhammed	4N
Seema	4N
Nazia	4N

Year 5 Pupils:

Fatima	5S
Yusuf	5S
Hiba	5S
Aisha	5S
Hajrah	5S
Arwa	5S
Jemima	5S
Ayan	5S
Inaya	5S
Innayah	5S
Mahir	5ES
Jaweriya	5ES
Miyah	5ES
Azaan	5ES
Sumaya	5ES
Chloe	5ES
Tanha	5ES
Hamza	5ES
Ayesha	5ES
Sehar	5ES

Year 6 Pupils:

Sara	6R
Iqra	6R
Ruqayyah	6R
Nafeesah	6R
Shania	6R
Mustafe	6R
Iqtidar	6R
Obadi	6R
Roheed	6R
Abdullah	6R
Zeeshan	6K
Caine	6K

